

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- 1 A method for transparent file proxying, the method comprising the
- 2 steps of:
- 3 coupling a plurality of computing devices to a local area network, at least one
- 4 of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication
- 5 packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of
- 6 computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;
- 7 coupling said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a
- 8 communication network;
- 9 coupling a remote memory element to said communication network, said
- 10 remote memory element configured to maintain a file selected from said plurality of
- 11 files contained in the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;
- 12 coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element;
- 13 intercepting, in said remote memory element, a communication message from
- 14 said remote computing device; and
- 15 providing said selected file to said remote computing device when said remote
- 16 memory element intercepts said communication message from said remote computing
- 17 device if said communication message requests said selected file from one of said
- 18 plurality of computing devices connected to said local area network.

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1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said plurality of
2 computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote
3 memory element.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected file is chosen to be
2 maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen
2 from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said remote memory element updates
2 said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and corresponding
3 to said selected file to be updated.

1 6. A system for transparent file proxying, comprising:
2 a local network to which is coupled a plurality of computing devices, at least
3 one of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route
4 communication packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said
5 plurality of computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of
6 files;
7 a communication network coupled to said at least one of said plurality of
8 computing devices;
9 a remote memory element coupled to said communication network and
10 configured to maintain a selected file selected from said plurality of files contained in
11 the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;

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12 a remote computing device connected to said remote memory element, said
13 remote memory element configured to intercept communication messages from said
14 remote computing device; and
15 wherein said remote memory element is configured to provide said selected
16 file to said remote computing device when said remote memory element intercepts a
17 communication message from said remote computing device, said communication
18 message requesting said selected file from one of said plurality of computing devices
19 connected to said local network.

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1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein said at least one of said plurality of
2 computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote
3 memory element.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein said selected file is chosen to be
2 maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen
2 from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.

1 10. The system of claim 6, wherein said remote memory element updates
2 said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and corresponding
3 to said selected file to be updated.

1 11. A computer readable medium having a program for transparent file proxying,
2 the program comprising logic configured to perform the steps of:

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3 coupling a plurality of computing devices to a local area network, at least one
4 of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication
5 packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of
6 computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;
7 coupling said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a
8 communication network;
9 coupling a remote memory element to said communication network said
10 remote memory element configured to maintain a file selected from said plurality of
11 files contained in the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;
12 coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element;
13 intercepting, in said remote memory element, a communication messages from
14 said remote computing device; and
15 providing said selected file to said remote computing device when said remote
16 memory element intercepts a communication message from said remote computing
17 device, said communication message requesting said selected file from one of said
18 plurality of computing devices connected to said local area network.

1 12. The program of claim 11, wherein said at least one of said plurality of
2 computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote
3 memory element.

1 13. The program of claim 11, wherein said selected file is chosen to be
2 maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.

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1 14. The program of claim 13, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen
2 from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.

1 15. The program of claim 11, wherein said remote memory element
2 updates said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and
3 corresponding to said selected file to be updated.

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